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Attorney Docket :
033082M113

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hiroaki SAEKI et al.

Serial No.: 10/019,227

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Filed: December 28, 2001

Examiner: To Be Assigned

For : ATTACHING AND REMOVING UNIT OF LID FOR WAFER CARRIER

LETTER TO EXAMINER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In order to maintain the official file for this application complete, Applicants enclose a copy of a Supplementary partial Search Report issued on March 19, 2004 to the European application corresponding to the present U.S. application.

This supplementary paper is not cited by way of an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) hereby because no reference has been cited in the supplementary paper over those cited in the International Search Report cited by Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of December 28, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: 

Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263
1850 M Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 263-4300
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

Date: April 21, 2004



P.B. 5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ (070) 340 2040
Tx 31651 epo nl
FAX (070) 340 3016

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Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

Liesegang, Eva
Forrester & Boehmert,
Pettenkoferstrasse 20-22
80336 München
ALLEMAGNE

FORRESTER & BOEHMERT

Eing.: 23. März 2004

Frist: 18.04.04
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nd. eds

Datum/Date

19. 03. 2004

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

FB10937

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°

00942356.7-1235/JPO004233

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

TOKYO ELECTRON LIMITED

COMMUNICATION

supplementary

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

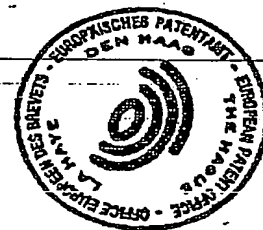
The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,--) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.
- ☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent
Office

SUPPLEMENTARY

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention EP 00 94 2356

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
	No further relevant documents disclosed -----		H01L21/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H01L
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p> <p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 March 2004	Examiner Oberle, T
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-4

Lid-detecting unit

2. Claims: 5-18

Attaching and removing unit